

T-O-P S-E-C-R-E-T

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14 December 1966

Draft

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Advance Portions of NIPP-67: National Intelligence Projections for Planning, Soviet Military Forces Through Mid-1976

1. On 9 December you requested that USIB provide you with the best quantitative interpretation of the estimates of Soviet strategic offensive and defensive forces appearing in the recently completed NIE's 11-8-66 and 11-3-66, in the format and level of detail you needed for your analysis of force requirements and for presentation of the results. In response to your request, the attached tables were approved by USIB on (20) December for use as projections for planning. They are, in effect, advance portions of NIPP-67, which is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 1967.

2. As is the case with the NIPP series itself, these projections are not intended to serve as a substitute for the continuing series of National Intelligence Estimates on Soviet military programs and capabilities. It is much more detailed than the NIE's. The additional detail is an attempt to quantify our basic estimates of broad trends. The figures in the tables may

GROUP 1

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create an impression of precise information, especially about future years, which would be quite unjustifiable. In transmitting the document, I therefore emphasize that it in fact represents a set of Projections for Planning, and that the quantitative data in it will provide an inadequate basis for planning unless used in conjunction with the relevant National Intelligence Estimates.

3. In this connection, I call your attention to the FOREWORD of NIPP-66 (31 March 1966, TOP SECRET), which sets forth in some detail the assumptions on which projections of this sort are based and the uncertainties in the resulting forecasts.

Richard Helms
Director

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